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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/450,384	11/29/1999	MARK A. MARS	11141.80952	7554

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BANNER & WITCOFF LTD
TEN SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
SUITE 3000
CHIAGO, IL 606067407

EXAMINER

CHIANG, JACK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/450384

Applicant(s)

Mars et al.

Examiner

J. Chiang

Group Art Unit

2642

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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address--

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE -3- MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-25-02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

CLAIMS

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pferd et al. (US 3112147) in view of Frazier (US 6430288).

Regarding claim 1, Pferd shows:

A front substantially planar surface (20);

At least one pair of punch down terminal strips (11), each terminal strip includes a first termination area (first 12-16 in fig. 1) and a plurality of additional termination area (see 13a, 17 in fig. 1), each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip (see 11 in fig. 1).

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not label the wire pairs on the front surface, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Frazier teaches providing a row and column labeling (fig. 3) of the wire pairs on the front surface of a connector block.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Frazier, this is commonly seen in the

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communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of communication, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Frazier, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 4, lines 47-56, figs. 3-4).

Regarding claim 11, Pferd shows the steps of:

Connecting a plurality of paired input wire to a plurality of pairs of terminal strip (i.e. first 12-16 in fig. 1)

Connecting a plurality of paired output wires (13a, 17 in fig. 1) to each of the plurality of pairs of terminal strips;

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not label the wire pairs on the front surface, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Frazier teaches providing a row and column labeling (fig. 3) of the wire pairs on the front surface of a connector block.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Frazier, this is commonly seen in the communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of communication, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Frazier, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 4, lines 47-56, figs. 3-4).

Regarding claim 14, Pferd shows the steps of:

Connecting a plurality of paired input wire to a plurality of pairs of terminal strip (i.e. first 12-16 in fig. 1)'

Connecting a plurality of paired output wires (13a, 17 in fig. 1) to each of the plurality of pairs of terminal strips;

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not label the wire pairs on the front surface, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Frazier teaches providing a row and column labeling (fig. 3) of the wire pairs on the front surface of a connector block.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Frazier, this is commonly seen in the communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of communication, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Frazier, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 4, lines 47-56, figs. 3-4).

Regarding claims 2-10, 12-13, 14-15, the combination of Pferd and Frazier shows:

A wire channel or wire channel hook (see wire channels in fig. 2 in Pferd) which also bundles wires;

The wire channel is located between two pairs of punch down strips (see wire channel and wires in fig. 2);

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The wire channel separates a first two pairs of strips from a second pair of strips (see the two channel next to each other in fig. 2);

One tie-wire ring for bundling wires (such as top wire channel in fig. 2);

The strip and insulation (11, 20); and

The labeling (Fig. 3 in Frazier, see comments in claim 1).

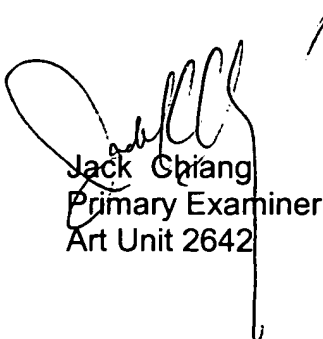
ARGUMENT

3. In response to the remarks (pages 5-6), applicant mainly argues about the labeling. Daoud is withdrawn. Frazier is cited to show the row and column labeling, see rejection above.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack Chiang whose telephone number is 703-305-4728. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:00 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Admad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.


Jack Chiang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2642

Recent Statutory Changes to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

On November 2, 2002, President Bush signed the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (H.R. 2215) (Pub. L. 107-273, 116 Stat. 1758 (2002)), which further amended 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) (Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501 (1999)). The revised provisions in 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are completely retroactive and effective immediately for all applications being examined or patents being reexamined. Until all of the Office's automated systems are updated to reflect the revised statute, citation to the revised statute in Office actions is provided by this attachment. This attachment also substitutes for any citation of the text of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), if made, in the attached Office action.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of the AIPA and H.R. 2215 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the attached Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

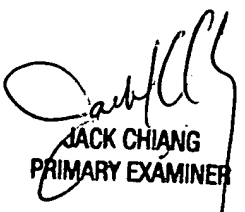
35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the AIPA and H.R. 2215, applies to all qualifying references, except when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. For such patents, the prior art date is determined under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as it existed prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 102 prior to the amendment by the AIPA that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the attached Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

For more information on revised 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) visit the USPTO website at www.uspto.gov or call the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1622.


JACK CHIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER